

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



THE SKIN—A Clinicopathological Treatise—Second Edition—Arthur C. Allen, M.D., Director of Laboratories, the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, New York, Downstate Medical Center. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, New York (10016), 1967. 1182 pages, 2362 illustrations, 503 full-page plates, \$48.50.

When originally published in 1954, *The Skin* by Arthur Allen was very welcome to fill the void of a text-book correlating the clinical and histologic aspects of skin disease for the confused dermatologist and pathologist alike. Since that time, Lever's text (*Dermatopathology* 1967) has given us the ultimate encyclopedia review of skin pathology, a masterful complete reference for both the dermatologist and pathologist.

These historical references are necessary in reviewing the second edition of *The Skin*. It was with disappointment that the new edition was found to have little new or different material from the original treatise. In fact, the original edition's illustrations, including monumental clinical and histologic material from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and other Atlas collections as well as many original photomicrographs taken by Dr. Sophie Spitz, have been darkened in their reproduction causing difficulty in seeing cell structure or a realistic clinical picture.

Many examples of deficiencies are noted. The section on anatomy of the skin presents excellent new electron microscopic photographs but is lacking in histochemistry and staining techniques of more practical importance to the clinical pathologist or dermatopathologist. The description of metabolic alterations of collagen and elastic tissue (including lipid proteinosis, myxedema and amyloid) are remarkably lacking. The distinctions between Erythema Nodosum and Erythema Induratum are only briefly commented upon. In a chapter with 24 pages of writing are lumped all verrucae, epithelial cysts, neurocutaneous syndromes and adnexal tumors. The adnexal tumors are incompletely differentiated and synonyms are not given to allow correlation with the current literature. Progress of squamous cell carcinoma is discussed with no references after 1953 and, to add to the confusion, is sub-headed under the title "laser effect on the skin."

In recent years, spindle and/or epithelioid cells have been noted to be the predominant cells of lesions categorized under the confusing title of Juvenile Melanoma and a new classification of these lesions as spindle and/or epithelioid cell nevi has been suggested. The use of specific mucopolysaccharide stains have proven to be of value in distinguishing melanoma cells from cells of Extramammary Pagets Disease. In the discussion of nevi and melanocarcinoma, Dr. Allen presents his defense against these newer viewpoints on Juvenile Melanoma and the use of staining techniques without mentioning the specific articles that would allow cross reference on this vital differentiation.

References after 1954 are scarce and new clinical and histologic photomicrographs are unfortunately few and scattered. In view of the cost (\$48.50) in relationship to the extremely poor reproduction of photographs (as contrasted to the inexpensive Armed Forces Institute of Pathology fascicles and absence of use of color (as opposed to Montgomery's text with brilliant cell detail especially on the subject of lymphomas), it is likely that this new edition will not be a welcome addition to the libraries of most dermatologists or pathologists except those engaged in research. This new edition will probably stimulate many to obtain original editions for more faithful reproductions of the original photomicrographs.

LEO INDIANER, M.D.

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ROENTGEN DIAGNOSIS—VOLUME V—ABDOMEN—2nd American Edition—By H. R. Schinz, Zurich; W. E. Baensch, Washington; W. Frommhold, Berlin; R. Glauener, M.D., Stuttgart; E. Uehlinger, and J. Wellauer, Zurich, Editors—**Second American Edition**—Arranged and Edited by Leo G. Rigler, Professor of Radiology, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016, 1967, 844 pages, \$55.00.

This is the first volume of the second edition to appear and is a further improvement on the outstanding reference book in diagnostic roentgenology which the previous edition was.

This volume deals with the gastrointestinal tract, including the biliary system, the liver, the spleen, inferior vena cava, the pancreas, the urinary system and the retroperitoneal lymphatic system. Short chapters on roentgen diagnosis in gynecology and obstetrics end the volume.

The illustrations are of superb quality, the material very well dealt with, the organization flawless.

The translation is excellent. The editor of the American edition, Dr. Leo Rigler, has added a few footnotes on controversial topics where there is a difference of opinion with the authors and added information not brought out in the text by them. This is a further improvement.

The authors of this volume are radiologists from Sweden, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Many of them are new to this set of volumes; therefore, the material is not a mere bringing up-to-date from the previous edition but basically a new effort. New techniques and their applications, which have occurred since the printing of the previous edition, such as selective arteriography, lymphangiography, splenoportography, etc., are adequately discussed and beautifully illustrated.

The references are exhaustive and international and include American and English sources along with European.

This reviewer looks forward with interest and expectation to the appearance of the other four volumes.

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